

## REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1 to 5, 7 to 11, 13, 14, 18, and 33, of which claim 1 is independent. Claim 33 is newly added. No claims have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

As now set forth in independent claim 1, Applicants' invention recites a sheet supplying apparatus which supplies a sheet to be recorded by recording means. The apparatus comprises a first stacking portion for holding first sheets, the first stacking portion including a pressure plate on which the first sheets are stacked, and a second stacking portion for holding second sheets, the second stacking portion arranged detachable from and attachable to the first stacking portion, and the second stacking portion including a tray on which the second sheets are stacked and a base member for supporting the tray movable between a supplying position and a release position. There is also a supplying roller that supplies the first sheet held by the first stacking portion or the second sheet held by the second stacking portion.

As set forth in claim 1 as amended, the invention is characterized in that when the tray is positioned at the release position, the pressure plate pushes up the first sheet held by the first stacking portion so that the supplying roller is able to supply the first sheet held by the first stacking portion, and while when the tray is positioned at the supplying position, the pressure plate pushes up the tray so that the supplying roller can contact with the second sheet stacked on the tray to supply the second sheet stacked on the tray.

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Trask et al. (US Patent No. 5,116,034), JP 61-127531,

the HP Office Jet 600 Series Device, and Jang (US Patent No. 6,315,280). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as now set forth in independent claim 1 is characterized in that, *inter alia*, when a tray is positioned at a release position, a pressure plate pushes up a first sheet held by a first stacking portion so that a supplying roller is able to supply the first sheet, and while when the tray is positioned at the supplying position, the pressure plate pushes up the tray so that the supplying roller can contact a second sheet stacked on the tray of a second stacking portion to supply the second sheet. As a result of this specific configuration, the present invention is able to supply a sheet either from the first stacking portion or the second stacking portion by means of a common supply roller and pressure plate.

Trask et al. discloses that a paper sheet tray 26 and an envelope tray 34 are detachable from a printer. In Trask et al., feeding of a sheet from a tray 26 is performed by a central feed roller 60, feeding of an envelope from an envelope tray 34 is performed by an envelope feed roller 48, and a wire weight 44 causes the envelope stacked on the envelope tray 34 to be pressed against the feed roller 48. Accordingly, in Trask et al., in order to feed the envelope from the envelope tray, a roller 48, different from the roller 60 for feeding the sheet from the tray 26, is required, and also a mechanism for causing the envelope to touch the roller 48 is necessary. Trask et al. therefore does not allow use of a common supply roller for supplying a sheet from either the first stacking portion or the second stacking portion.

JP 61-127531 discloses that when a sheet is fed from a lower cassette 1, the sheet is pressed against a sheet feed roller 56 by means of a spring 13 and a base plate push-up plate 19, or when a sheet fed from an upper cassette 40, the sheet is pressed against the sheet feed

roller 56 by a spring 53. Accordingly, when a sheet is fed from the upper cassette 40, a spring different from the spring used when the sheet is fed from the lower cassette is required. As such, JP 61-127531 does not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in claim 1 where a pressure plate pushes up the first sheet held by the first stacking portion and the second sheet stacked on a tray to supply the second sheet.

The HP Office Jet 600 Series Device features an apparatus with a first stacking portion and a second stacking portion. However, as discussed previously, the HP device is silent as to the disclosure of a common sheet feeding roller or a mechanism for pushing up/down a sheet is stacked on the first stacking portion and the second stacking portion.

Lastly, Applicants respectfully submit that Jang also fails to teach or suggest the invention as now recited in independent claim 1. More specifically, the apparatus of Jang does not move between a release position and a supply position. Thus the entire characterizing clause at a minimum, is lacking from the disclosure of this reference.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied primary references, whether taken individually or in combination, provide a configuration such as in Applicants' invention which can supply a sheet either from the first stacking portion or the second stacking portion by means of a common supply roller or teach or suggest that when a tray is positioned at a release position, a pressure plate pushes up a first tray held by a first stacking portion so that a supplying roller is able to supply the sheet, while when the tray is positioned at a supplying position, the pressure plate pushes up the tray so that the supplying roller can contact with the second sheet stacked on a tray of a second stacking portion to supply the second sheet.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the four primary references, even if taken in combination, fail to teach or suggest the invention as now recited in independent claim 1.

The remaining claims in the above application depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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